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AF/C: RJFENDRICK

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL PHUM MOPS RW
SUBJECT: RPF REP ON HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION, CEASE-FIRE TALKS

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. AF/C OFFICE DIRECTOR RENDER CONVOKED WASHINGTON RPF REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES MURIGANDE ON MAY 6 TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF CEASE-FIRE NEGOTIATIONS AND RPF VIEWS ON POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WAS AF/C RWANDA DESKOFF AISTON (NOTETAKER).

RPF POSITION ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION

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3. MURIGANDE SAID HE THOUGHT THE RPF WOULD SUPPORT UN INTERVENTION ON A "HUMANITARIAN BASIS", FOR INSTANCE, TO TRAVEL TO AND PROTECT ENCLAVES OF THREATENED CIVILIANS. HE DID NOT THINK THE RPF WOULD HAVE ANY PROBLEM WITH A FORCE THAT HAD THE MANDATE TO DISARM CIVILIAN MILITIAS OR THUGS OR TO MOVE POPULATIONS TO SAFE AREAS BEHIND THE LINES OF ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER. HE SAID THE RPF WOULD ALLOW RELIEF TO BE TRANSPORTED THROUGH ITS TERRITORY AND EVEN INTO GOVERNMENT-HELD TERRITORY. HE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMANITARIAN RELIEF REACHING EVERYONE WHO NEEDS IT. WHEN ASKED WHAT SORT OF RULES OF ENGAGEMENT THE RPF WOULD THINK WAS APPROPRIATE FOR SUCH AN OPERATION, HE SAID HE WAS NOT SURE. WE ASKED HIM TO CHECK WITH HIS LEADERSHIP AND GET BACK TO US.

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4. RENDER BROACHED THE IDEA OF CREATING SECURE AREAS ALONG THE BORDER. MURIGANDE SAID HE THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE RPF. HE SAID THAT HE CONSIDERED ALL AREAS UNDER RPF CONTROL TO BE SECURE, AND ADDED THAT THE RPF WOULD WELCOME HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS IN THEIR TERRITORY TO PROVE THAT THEY ARE NOT KILLING CIVILIANS.

CEASE-FIRE/ARUSHA TALKS/ACCOUNTABILITY

5. WE REITERATED OUR CALL FOR AN END TO THE KILLINGS, AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE, AND A RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS. RENDER STRESSED THAT RWANDA WILL FORFEIT INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT IF THE TWO SIDES DON'T PURSUE THESE CRUCIAL GOALS.

6. MURIGANDE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENTS THAT WERE REPORTED IN THE PRESS FOLLOWING THE BREAK-OFF OF THE ARUSHA TALKS THE FIRST WEEK IN MAY. HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY RPF MEETING IN GBADOLITE THAT WEEK. HE REITERATED THE RPF POSITION THAT THE TWO FIGHTING FORCES MUST SIT DOWN AND AGREE ON MODALITIES FOR A CEASE-FIRE. HE SAID HE THOUGHT KIGALI WAS A GOOD PLACE FOR SUCH TALKS BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE THE FIGHTING IS AND BECAUSE IT'S EASIER THAN TRYING TO GET DELEGATIONS TO TANZANIA.

7. WHEN ASKED WHAT WENT WRONG AT ARUSHA, MURIGANDE SLIPPED AND SAID "NOTHING WENT WRONG". HE QUICKLY

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RECOVERED AND SAID THAT THE PROBLEM WAS THAT THE
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ASSEMBLED PARTIES WERE TRYING TO FORCE THE RPF TO
RECOGNIZE THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH THE RPF COULD NOT DO.
MURIGANDE SEEMED UPSET WITH THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT,
WHICH HE CLAIMED HAD TRIED TO TRICK THE RPF INTO SIGNING
A CEASE-FIRE DOCUMENT WITHOUT TELLING THEM THAT THE GOR
WOULD BE SIGNING SUCH A DOCUMENT AS WELL. SINCE THIS IN
THE RPF'S VIEW SUGGESTED RECOGNITION OF THE INTERIM
GOVERNMENT, THE RPF COULD NOT ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN.
RENDER REPLIED THAT THE PROCESS WILL NOT GET ANYWHERE IF
THE TWO SIDES KEEP PLACING CONDITIONS ON THE DISCUSSIONS
AND SAID THE TWO SIDES SHOULD DROP THEIR CONDITIONS AND
GET ON WITH IT. MURIGANDE RESPONDED THAT THE RPF IS NOT
JUST PLAYING POLITICS HERE; HE SAID, "WE ARE PLAYING
WITH OUR LIVES; THERE IS A DELIBERATE EFFORT TO FINISH US
(THE TUTSIS) OFF."

8. DESKOFF AISTON POINTED OUT THAT THE FACT THE RPF MAY
SPEAK TO SOMEONE (THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT) TO REACH A
COMMON GOAL (PEACE) DOES NOT MEAN THE RPF RECOGNIZES OR
ENDORSES THE ACTIONS OF THE OTHER PARTY. MURIGANDE
REPLIED THAT THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT LEADERS ARE JUST LIKE
NAZIS AND SHOULD BE TREATED THAT WAY. THEY SHOULD NOT BE
TALKED TO; THEY SHOULD BE THROWN IN JAIL.

9. THE RPF IS ADAMANT ON AVOIDING ANY APPEARANCE OF
LEGITIMIZING THE GOVERNMENT; MURIGANDE SAID THE RPF
CANNOT ALLOW THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT TO BE PUT IN A
POSITION THAT WOULD ALLOW IT TO STAY IN POWER AND
CONTINUE TO MISUSE THAT POWER. HE SAID THAT THOSE WHO
PLAYED A ROLE IN THE MASSACRES MUST BE EXCLUDED FROM THE
PROCESS AND THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SHOULD HELP
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ESTABLISH RESPONSIBILITY; THESE PEOPLE MUST BE PUNISHED
AND NOT GIVEN ASYLUM IN ANOTHER COUNTRY. RENDER ASSURED
MURIGANDE THAT STEPS ARE UNDERWAY TO MOVE TOWARD AN
INVESTIGATION AND NOTED THE EXISTENCE OF THE UNHCR.
RESPONDING TO A QUERY FROM RENDER, MURIGANDE SAID ANY RPF
MEMBER FOUND RESPONSIBLE FOR ATROCITIES (INCLUDING
SUMMARY EXECUTION) SHOULD BE PUNISHED AS WELL.

10. WHEN ASKED HOW WE CAN STOP THE KILLINGS AND GET BACK
TO ARUSHA TALKS, MURIGANDE REPLIED THAT THE KILLING WAS

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ABOUT TO STOP ON ITS OWN BECAUSE "THEY" (THE HUTU THUGS/MILITIA) WERE RUNNING OUT OF PEOPLE (TUTSIS) TO KILL. WE NOTED THAT OUR INFORMATION INDICATED THAT THERE WERE MANY MANY PEOPLE STILL ALIVE AND NOTED THAT THERE WERE UPWARDS OF ONE MILLION TUTSIS IN RWANDA WHEN THIS ALL BEGAN.

REGIONAL ISSUES

11. MURIGANDE ADMITTED THAT THE RPF HAD SENT A DELEGATION TO SEE MOBUTU TWO WEEKS EARLIER TO ASK HIM TO STAY OUT OF THE WAR. HE SAID THE RPF HAS BEEN ASKING ALL NEIGHBORS TO STAY OUT OF THE WAR AND ASSUMES THAT SIMILAR TRIPS WERE MADE TO UGANDA, BURUNDI, AND TANZANIA. HE SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY LINKS BETWEEN THE RPF AND THE BURUNDI MILITARY, BUT ASSERTED THAT IF THE BURUNDI ARMY REALLY CONSIDERED ITSELF ONLY AN ARMY TO PROTECT TUTSIS, AS MANY CLAIM, THEY WOULD HAVE INTERVENED IN RWANDA BY NOW TO STOP THE KILLING IN SOUTHERN RWANDA.

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BOOH BOOH A NO-GO

12. MURIGANDE REITERATED THE RPF OBJECTION TO UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE BOOH BOOH, WHOM THEY CONSIDER TO BE PRO-GOVERNMENT. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE CLAIMED THAT BOOH BOOH COBBLED TOGETHER THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT FOR APPROVAL BY THE RWANDAN MILITARY. IN DOING SO, HE IGNORED THE MECHANISMS PROVIDED FOR IN ARUSHA FOR FORMING A NEW GOVERNMENT. WITHOUT GIVING SPECIFICS, HE ALSO CITED BOOH BOOH'S "FLIRTING" WITH HARDLINERS.

CHRISTOPHER

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